

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



October 2015

We provide professional, efficient services to create a lifetime positive difference for our Community.

Homelessness and Vagrancy

We have received a great deal of community feedback regarding a noticeable increase in vagrancy in the historic downtown area and other areas of the City. On September 15, we conducted a roundtable summit with many agencies including Friendship House, Community Action of Skagit County, Skagit County government, Chamber of Commerce, the Downtown Business Association, REACH center, and City police and library staff.

Our initial conversation was to identify what impacts we are seeing. The Friendship House runs a café with meal service, and they have experienced a 20% increase in guests per meal - an increase of 6602 meals per month. Our City police are seeing an increase in calls for service to the downtown area, and the City library has increasing vandalism in their restroom. Downtown businesses are reporting vandalism and people taking shelter in public spaces.

Our group will be collecting some data and ideas and meeting again before the end of October to begin action planning for short term solutions. Skagit County and Community Action are already working toward long term planning for affordable housing solution proposals for the entire County.

Waterfront Project Phase 3a

The fall weather is cooperating and Colacurcio Construction is ahead of schedule on the earth moving work associated with the current phase of the flood protection project.

The project under construction includes constructing 3,100 feet of new levee to protect downtown from a 100-year flood event.

Work will continue the next few weeks on this \$980,000 improvement project.



Mayor's Coffee Hour

Friday, October 9, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Skagit Gleaners
1021 Riverside Drive

**From Riverside Drive, turn west onto Alder Lane (across from Skagit Habitat for Humanity Store). Skagit Gleaners will be on Alder Lane on your left.*

Saturday, October 24, 10:00 - 11:00 am

Haggen Deli
2601 E. Division Street



The Mount Vernon Elks Lodge is recognized for their support and partnership with the City Library

Free Community Family Swim at YMCA

Saturday, October 17
6 - 8:30pm

Skagit Valley Family YMCA
215 E. Fulton Street

The YMCA is offering a FREE Family Swim for Mount Vernon residents on 1st and 3rd Saturdays monthly, 6-8:30pm. Children under the age of 18 must be accompanied by adult in the water. ID required for proof of residency; drop-in rates apply for non-residents.

Downtown Trick-or-Treat

Saturday, October 31
3 - 5pm

1st Street, Downtown Mount Vernon

This annual event is a must for trick-or-treaters and their parents. First Street shuts down between Division Street and Kincaid Street, providing a safe and fun place for children to trick-or-treat, followed by a Halloween Costume Contest at the Lincoln Theatre at 5 pm.

Pickleball - A Lifetime Sport!

Pickleball is one of the fastest growing sports in North America and can be played competitively by both younger players and seniors. The game, which combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong, is played with a paddle and plastic ball on a badminton sized court with a slightly modified tennis net. Call Mount Vernon Parks and Recreation at (360) 336-6215 for more information on future pickleball open gym and outdoor play opportunities!

Mayor Jill Boudreau

910 Cleveland Avenue
P.O. Box 809
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360.336.6211

www.mountvernonwa.gov



Marijuana Sale Revenues

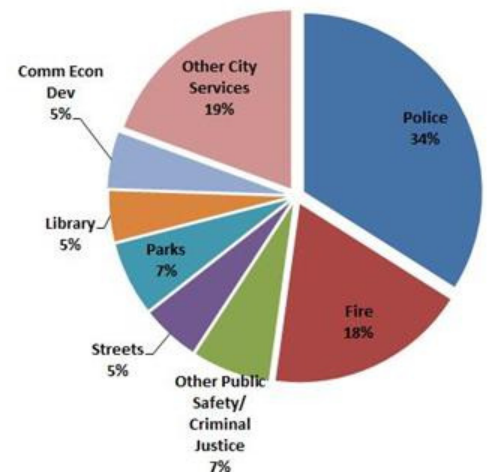
House Bill (HB) 2136 is the Legislature's first effort to amend Washington's recreational marijuana law. Among its numerous provisions, HB 2136 restructures the recreational marijuana tax structure, provides for local revenue sharing and flexibility, and clarifies many of the provisions of the original law.

On September 30, cities and counties throughout Washington State received their first share of marijuana revenues. At least \$12 million is to be provided for distribution to cities and counties in the budget adopted for 2015-2017. Of that \$12 million, \$6 million shall be distributed in FY 2016 and \$6 million in FY 2017. There is a complex formula for distribution taking into account population, total revenues generated in a jurisdiction, and physical location. The City of Mount Vernon will receive approximately \$36,343 in 2016.

Fast Budget Facts

We are working diligently on the draft 2016 budget to present to City Council on October 14.

- Total 2015 Budget is \$52.2 million with an OPERATING Budget of \$26 million.
- The chart on the right reflects spending of our operating budget – with Public Safety being the top expenditure of 59% (Police, Fire, Criminal Justice).
- You can view the detailed (and highly interesting) 2015 budget document in its entirety on the City website at www.mountvernonwa.gov by clicking on "Departments," "Finance," then "Annual Budgets."



Governmental Operating Funds

Mayor's Wellness Challenge Wrap-up

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 4th Annual Mayor's Wellness Challenge a great success - Skagit Regional Health and our other community partners, volunteers, and everyone who came out to participate in an event or worked on getting in 31 minutes of activity each day in August. We had 334 people register for this year's Challenge!



We would love to hear your feedback

- please call our office at (360) 336-6211 or email

mvmayor@mountvernonwa.gov and let us know your thoughts, opinions, and any comments you may have as we continue to improve and infuse new ideas into the Mayor's Wellness Challenge.